

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 109

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to commend the staff of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory upon sixty years of honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee and the nation.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those people who have worked with enthusiasm and dedication for the betterment of all mankind through significant scientific and technological advancement; and

WHEREAS, for sixty years, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory has housed staff and researchers who have contributed considerably to a greater understanding of neutron science, energy, high-performance computing, complex biological systems, advanced materials, and national security; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory was established in 1943 as a part of the secret Manhattan Project; the mission of the Laboratory was to pioneer a method for producing and separating plutonium; and

WHEREAS, during the 1950s and 1960s, Oak Ridge National Laboratory was an international center for the study of nuclear energy, as well as related research in the physical and life sciences; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory became a part of the newly-created Department of Energy, at which time its research program was expanded into the areas of energy production, transmission, and conservation; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, Oak Ridge National Laboratory has been a world leader in scientific exploration; the benefits of the technological advancements brought about through the astute service of the men and women who have worked at the Laboratory are without measure; and

WHEREAS, throughout its remarkable sixty years of service, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory has received more Research and Development 100 Awards than any other laboratory with the Department of Energy; and

WHEREAS, in addition, several members of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory staff have received individual awards, including the Nobel Prize for Dr. Clifford Shull and Dr. Eugene Wigner; and

WHEREAS, since April of 2000, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory has been managed by a partnership of the University of Tennessee and Battelle; the staff and researchers at the laboratory now work to support the nation with a peacetime mission that is just as important as, though vastly different from, the days of the Manhattan Project; and

WHEREAS, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the mission of which is to conduct basic and applied research that provides innovative solutions to complex problems, is now an international leader in a range of scientific areas that support the larger mission of the Department of Energy; and

WHEREAS, with major facility upgrades to the High Flux Isotope Reactor, and construction on schedule for the 2006 opening of the \$1.4 billion Spallation Neutron Source, the Laboratory leads the world in neutron science research that will enable American industry to produce a broad variety of products lighter, stronger, and cheaper; and

WHEREAS, the life and environmental sciences have been research priorities since the early days of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and researchers continue to explore ways to accomodate abundant energy with a safe environment; and

WHEREAS, Oak Ridge National Laboratory also houses one of the nation's strongest and broadest materials science programs, which, with the support of the Department of Energy, continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, the capacity for research of the highest quality and significance is further increased by high-performance computing facilities that provide the foundation for scientific discovery; and

WHEREAS, though its mission has changed since the days of the Manhattan Project, Oak Ridge National Laboratory continues to play a most important role in the effort to strengthen our national security; in these most troubling times, Homeland Security technologies are a major priority of the research agenda at the Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, the staff at Oak Ridge National Laboratory is also working with great diligence and purpose to reduce America's dependence on foreign energy sources; from safer nuclear power to more efficient home appliances, researchers at Oak Ridge are contributing to the goal of increased energy production, improved energy transmission, and reduced energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, Oak Ridge National Laboratory is ever dedicated to the progress and development of its facilities; recently the Laboratory embarked upon its most significant modernization since the Second World War, which will enable it to attract the next generation of exceptional scientists; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the stellar work in service of the nation and scientific advancement, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory--through its managing corporation, Battelle--is a valued member of the Oak Ridge community, providing more than \$1.25 million annually in support of education programs, economic development, and other projects in the region; and

WHEREAS, Oak Ridge National Laboratory is further committed to excellence in education, and, in cooperation with Oak Ridge Associated Universities, it has extensive partnerships that include research and joint appointments with the University of Tennessee and six "Core Universities": Duke, Florida State, Georgia Tech, North Carolina State, Virginia, and Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, the current staff of 3,800 and approximately 3,000 guest researchers work under the astute direction of Bill Madia, Director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory since April 1, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee and the nation are proud of the countless accomplishments of the staff of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and it is fitting that we should recognize these men and women on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the facilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend the staff members, both past and present, of Oak Ridge National Laboratory for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and this nation, commend their dedication to scientific and technological advancement, and salute their unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.